



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**NASHUA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING  
\$200,000 FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, the Boston Division of the Postal Inspection Service Inspector in Charge Ken Jones, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Division Kenneth W. Kaiser, and Nashua, NH Chief of Police Donald Gross, announced today that Christine Verfaillie, age 34 and a resident of 325 Fox Run in Hudson, New Hampshire, has pleaded guilty to orchestrating a criminal scheme involving the use of the interstate commercial mail carriers through which she stole \$213,050 from her former employer, American Express Corporation (AMEX).

During a court hearing that was conducted earlier today by United States District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro, Verfaillie acknowledged that she was employed as the Operations Manager for a travel agency located in Nashua, New Hampshire that is owned by AMEX; she was assigned a corporate AMEX credit card that she was only permitted to use for business related expenses; she used the account to purchase 2,488 Gift Cheques, totaling \$213,050, from AMEX; she cashed the checks and used the money for her personal benefit; she stole money to pay for the Cheques by submitting fraudulent business expense vouchers to AMEX; and she concealed her unauthorized use of the credit card by submitting fraudulent monthly account statements to employees of AMEX who monitored her use of the account.

When Verfaillie is sentenced by Judge Barbadoro on January 21, 2004, she could receive a prison sentence of up to 20 years, and be fined \$250,000 or twice the amount of the gain or loss that was caused by the offense.

After today's hearing, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "Prosecuting major cases of embezzlement will remain a top priority of our White Collar Crime Section." This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Kinsella.